

Registered Scientist (RSci) – Application

Registered Scientists (RSci) excel at applying their scientific knowledge and skills to solve complex problems and find solutions. They can work alone, as part of a team or as team leader. Most importantly, they follow a code of professional conduct and take responsibility for safe working practices and contributing to their improvement. They are also committed to developing their career through life-long learning.

We accept applicants from the food and related industries with a wide range of qualifications and experience and who meet our requirements by a combination of work-based learning and qualifications.

You will typically be qualified to at least degree level in relevant subjects and will normally have applied this knowledge in your role for at least a year. This may include the completion of a year's work placement, whilst at university.

If you need any help completing the competence report form, please get in touch: JoinUs@ifst.org

If you do not yet qualify for RSci registration, you can still use the competences as a framework to assist you in developing your skills and experience to apply in the future.

To apply for RSci, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Non-scientific and qualifications below level 3 (in Scotland level 5) plus 3 years' experience in a relevant role.
- QCF Level 3 qualifications (for example A' levels in science subjects) plus 2 years post qualification experience in a relevant role.
- RSciTech or Foundation degree or HND in other science subjects², plus 2 years' experience in a relevant role
- Degree or higher degree in other science subjects² or Foundation degree or Higher National Diploma in food science/technology or closely related subjects¹, plus 2 years' experience in a relevant role. Up to 1-year relevant work experience gained as part of the qualification can count towards this experience.
- Degree in food science/technology¹, plus 1 years' experience in a relevant role (work experience gained as part of the qualification can count towards this)

Examples of suitable subjects include:

1. Food science and technology degrees of which a major element is food plus another subject, e.g. nutrition, product development, chemistry, microbiology, marketing, management, consumer studies, biotechnology.

2. Science, technology and engineering subjects: e.g. nutrition, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, mathematics, biology, engineering, statistics, agriculture, environmental sciences, plus modular degrees which combine these subjects.

Relevant experience

You can demonstrate the continuing development of your knowledge and skills through a wide range of employment within the food chain and associated organisations, education, training or personal study related to the field of food science and technology.

Examples of suitable employment include: food processing, food manufacturing, distribution, technical sales, food law enforcement, food retailing, food service, trade bodies, legal work, consultancy, central and local government departments and agencies, research, academia, teaching, media, etc.

Application Process

You will be able to complete the application for RSci directly online.

To submit your application, the following is required:

- Completed Competence Report: answers will be assessed against the competence framework in place for this recognition.
- Certificate of highest qualification
- Up-to-date CV including details of roles and responsibilities held
- Details of 1 x referee to support your application
- You will also need to pay the registration fee where applicable.

The application process consists of submitting a competence report in which you draw upon your career and experience in the food industry. To be awarded this registration, you need to meet the following 5 standards:

- A. Application of knowledge & understanding
- B. Personal responsibility
- C. Interpersonal skills
- D. Professional practice
- E. Professional Standards

The form will ask you to describe how you think you meet the 5 RSci competence areas, using examples drawn from your recent personal experiences. Here are some tips you should bear in mind when formulating your answers.

- When you are thinking about how to structure your answers, you will need to think of examples of your experiences in terms of what you did, how you went about it and why you did it. You may find the STAR method helpful for structuring your answers – this stands for Situation, Task, Action, Result.
- Provide clear examples of the role that you played or the contribution that you made to a particular task or activity, rather than that of the team as a whole.
- You should think about using examples that are fairly recent i.e. from the last three years, although you can also draw on relevant experience from further back in your career.
- You can use and refer to a particular example more than once, but do ensure you make it clear how and why it applies to a competence.
- You can use examples from broad professional experiences, but you must be able to show how you have applied the skills developed in your job role.

Reference information

Your application should be supported by well-informed comments from one suitable referee. A suitable referee would be a senior professional in your field of work who is able to base their views on direct knowledge of your work experience and who can confirm the validity of your stated achievements. Your referee should not be related to you or subordinate to you. Please communicate with your referee to let them know that we will be in contact before submitting their details to us. Please note that the competence report may be shared with your referee if requested.

Maintaining Registration

If your application is successful, you will be required to maintain a CPD portfolio, and achieve 25 hours of CPD each year. The CPD year runs from 1 April to 31 March, and registrants are audited every few years to ensure that their CPD meets the standards set by the Science Council. More information on this is available on the IFST website or by contacting us JoinUs@ifst.org